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Amdt. dated 11/11/2004
Reply to Office Action of 08/16/2004

<u>**REMARKS**</u>

The Examiner is thanked for the interview on November 9, 2004. Claims 1 - 6 are pending in the present Application. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 - 6 under 35 U.S.C. $103(a) as being unpatentable over US Publication No. 2004/0139430 by Eatough et al. in view of US Patent 6,151,023 to Chari.

In reviewing the Specification, Applicants have encountered an error which has been corrected. Applicants have also amended the Specification to include the Serial Nos. of all Related Applications. The claims in the Application were amended to better claim Applicant's invention. In addition, Claim 7 was added for consideration.

For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the applied references. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

As stated in the SPECIFICATION, in today's environment a network may consist of different computer systems running under different operating systems and using different software management utilities. The network is usually managed by a system administrator. The system administrator typically adds and configures new computer systems, sets up user accounts, installs system-wide software, allocates mass storage space etc. In short, the system administrator ensures that the network is operational and is running at its optimum.

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To perform this task, the system administrator periodically runs tests and executes management commands on the various systems in the network. When a new computer system managed by a new system management software utility is added in the network, it would be quite convenient to use an existing user interface to manage the new computer system. The present invention provides such capability.

In accordance with the teachings of the invention, existing system management user interfaces are provided with a set of specifications that enable the existing user interface to work seamlessly with new system management software utilities. Particularly, when an existing user-interface is running on a first computer system, a user at the first computer system may effectively manage a computer system (i.e., a second computer system) on which a new system management software utility is running. To do so, however, the first computer system must be able to ascertain which system management software utility is running on all computer systems in a network.

The invention uses a table cross-referencing network address of the computer systems in the network with the system management software utility running on them to enable the first computer system to determine which system management software utility is running on which computer system in the network. When the first computer system needs to send management commands to a second computer system, it consults the cross-referencing table to determine the system management utility that is being used by the second computer. Once this is known, proper

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specifications from the set of specifications may be used
to effectively send commands to the second computer system.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes
of which Claim 1 is illustrative.

> 1. A method of *interfacing an
> existing system management user interface
> running on a first computer system with a
> system management software utility running
> on a second computer system in a network,*
> said second computer system having a
> network address, said method comprising
> the steps of:
> *providing a set of specifications for
> interfacing the user interface with a
> plurality of software management
> utilities, including the software
> management system utility running on the
> second computer system;*
> determining the software management
> system utility running on the second
> computer system by using a table cross-
> referencing the network address of the
> second computer system with the system
> management software utility running on the
> second computer system; and
> *interfacing, using specifications
> from the set of specifications, the user
> interface with the software utility
> running on the second computer system.*
> (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103
as being unpatentable over US Publication No. 2004/0139430
by Eatough et al. in view of US Patent 6,151,023 to Chari.
Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the
applied references.

Eatough et al. purport to disclose a multivendor
package management. According to Eatough et al., the

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software package management contains a software management system that includes a vendor package template, a package importer, and a package agent. The vendor package template provides a script to install, upgrade, and remove at least one software package from the software package management. The package importer receives the software package, and creates a package document, referred to as an X-package that is based on the vendor package template. The package agent receives, deploys and executes the X-package on a target computer.

But, as the Examiner correctly stated, Eatough et al. do not teach, show or suggest the use of cross-referencing tables in which network addresses of computers are cross-referenced with software management utilities. Eatough et al. do not show this element of the claim because there is no reason to do so. The software package management of Eathough et al. (i.e., X-package 120) does not interface with software management utilities running on other computer systems. Rather, the software package management of Eatough et al. is assembled on one computer system and is installed on another computer system.

As a bolstering measure, the Examiner made use of paragraph [0015] of the Eatough reference. In paragraph [0015] it is stated that "[t]he X-package 120 may include a uniformly consistent set of attributes that allows the attributes to be displayed in a substantially similar manner regardless of the package vendor. Furthermore, the consistency allows all X-packages 120 to be managed in a single user interface."

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But as stated before, all the X-packages that are being managed in a single user interface are all on one computer system, the computer system on which they are being assembled. After assembly, they are ported to the computer system on which they are to be installed.

Thus, Applicants disagree with the Examiner's statement that Eatough et al. disclose "a method of interfacing an existing system management user interface [running on a first computer system] with a new system management utility system running on a second computer system.

Applicants further assert that Eatough et al. do not teach, show or suggest a method of *providing a set of specifications for interfacing the user interface with a plurality of software management utilities, including the software management system utility running on the second computer system;* nor do Eathough et al. teach, show or suggest a method of *interfacing, using specifications from the set of specifications, the user interface with the software utility running on the second computer system.*

Chari purports to disclose an apparatus for organizing and displaying management information regarding hardware and software components in a computer network. But, as in the case of Eatough et al., Chari does not teach, show or suggest a method of *providing a set of specifications for interfacing the user interface with a plurality of software management utilities, including the software management system utility running on the second computer system:* nor do Eathough et al. teach, show or suggest a method of *interfacing, using specifications from the set of*

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specifications, the user interface with the software utility running on the second computer system.

Hence, combining the teachings of Eatough et al. with those of Chari does not teach the invention.

Consequently, Claim 1 and its dependent claim, should be allowable. Independent Claims 3 and 5 as well as new Claim 7, which all incorporate the above-emboldened-italicized limitations in the above-reproduced claim 1, together with their dependent claims should also be allowable. Therefore, Applicants once more respectfully request reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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